



## August 31-Sept. 3, 2007 -- Was Jonestown a CIA front for drug smuggling and mind control experiments?

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[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

### August 31-Sept. 3, 2007 -- Was Jonestown a CIA front for drug smuggling and mind control experiments?

WMR has uncovered documents that show the CIA kept extensive open source records on the agency's suspected involvement in the People's Temple cult that set up shop in Jonestown, Guyana after moving from the San Francisco Bay Area. Most official U.S. intelligence files on Jonestown remain classified.

On November 18, 1978, Reverend Jim Jones, a one-time supporter of Richard Nixon, and 912 other people were murdered or committed suicide in a bizarre massacre at the People's Temple compound in Jonestown and at the nearby airfield at Port Kaituma. Murdered at the airport were California Democratic Congressman Leo J. Ryan, three journalists, and a People's Temple defector.

One clipping held by the CIA was a *Washington Post* article dated March 25, 1983, that reported that the relatives of some of the Jonestown victims had sued CIA Director Stansfield Turner because they believed he "conspired with Jones to control the cult as part of a secret government behavior-modification program." A huge cache of mind altering drugs, including thiorazine, sodium pentathol, demerol, thalium, chloral hydrate, and largatil were discovered at Jonestown following the massacre.



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However, the clippings maintained by the CIA clearly show the agency was concerned about the allegations. Investigators found that Jones and his People's Temple had amassed a huge fortune in property and bank assets in Latin America, including Panama, Guyana, and Grenada.

In 1978, the dictatorial Prime Minister of Grenada Eric Gairy was fending off the political challenge leftist New Jewel Movement of Maurice Bishop ; Omar Torrijos was in charge in Panama; and Forbes Burnham was Prime Minister of Guyana. Torrijos and Burnham were installed with the help of the CIA.

During the time of the Jonestown massacre, the People's Temple's ship, the "Cudjoe," was en route to Trinidad with members of the Temple on board. Temple members soon set up operations in Trinidad and Grenada, where Gairy, a CIA client, who, in a 1977 speech before the UN General Assembly, called for the UN to establish an Agency for Psychic Research into Unidentified Flying Objects and the Bermuda Triangle, was in charge.

According to the *Oakland Tribune*, the St. George's University Medical School in Grenada had on its staff one Dr. Peter Bourne, the son of the university's vice chancellor Sir Geoffrey Bourne. Peter Bourne is a graduate of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), where he studied the psychological effects of stress on those in combat. He also served one year in Vietnam as the head of the Army's psychiatric research team. Bourne later became an Assistant UN Secretary General and an adviser to then-Congressman Bill Richardson. It was under the guise of rescuing American medical students at the university, that the Reagan administration launched a 1983 invasion to overthrow Bernard Coard, who had ousted and executed Bishop in a coup. Both Bournes said the medical students were never in any danger.

The Jonestown connection to the U.S. war in Southeast Asia does not end there. The U.S. ambassador to Guyana at the time of the Jonestown massacre was John Burke, who served with his Deputy Chief of Mission Richard Dwyer, were allegedly working for the CIA in Bangkok during the Vietnam war. Dwyer was wounded in the Port Kaituma shootings where Ryan and the other were killed.

On Sept. 27, 1980, Jack Anderson reported that Dwyer was a CIA agent and a friend of Jones. Anderson reported that on one of the tapes made during the mass suicide Jones was heard saying, "Get Dwyer out of here before something happens to him." Dwyer reportedly left Guyana for Grenada after the massacre.

The US Consular Officer at the embassy in Georgetown, Guyana was Richard McCoy, who allegedly liaised with Jim Jones and was a U.S. Air Force intelligence official. Another alleged CIA employee, operating under State Department cover, was Dan Webber, who also visited the Jonestown the day after the massacre.

Joe Holsinger, Ryan's assistant and friend, later said that he believed that Jonestown was a massive mind control experiment and that the CIA and military intelligence was involved in the program.

Representative Ryan had never been a favorite of the CIA. After his assassination, it was revealed by former CBS News correspondent Daniel Schorr that Ryan was his source for uncovering a covert CIA operation in Angola, in contravention of U.S. law. Schorr felt compelled on November 30, 1978, to reveal Ryan as his source because Ryan was "dead and beyond reproach." Schorr was sanctioned by CBS News in 1976 after he passed to the Village Voice a secret House Select Committee on Intelligence report that was critical of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The Southeast Asia-Guyana connection is also highlighted by plans to re-settle a number of Laotian Hmong, many of whom worked for the CIA during the Indochina and Cambodian (on behalf of Pol Pot) civil wars, to the Waini-Yarakita district, northwest of Jonestown after the massacre. According to Jerry Hopkins' book, *Bangkok Babylon*, the plans to re-settle the Hmong were the brainchild of Tony Poe, the legendary CIA officer in Southeast Asia who ran the Hmong forces against the Pathet Lao, and who allegedly served as the basis for the character Colonel Kurtz in the film "Apocalypse Now." Poe was assisted in the Hmong re-settlement plans by his successor as the CIA's main counter-insurgency man in Thailand, legendary CIA agent Jack Shirley.

Although a few Hmongs were re-settled in the Jonestown area, the plan was abandoned, especially after Venezuela objected to the establishment of a newly-populated buffer zone near its border.

The one question that remains is how the CIA covertly financed Jones. According to an article in the Brazilian newspaper *Manchete* dated Jan. 9, 1979, and translated by the CIA from Portuguese into English, Brazil's Federal Police suspected that Jones and the People's Temple were part of a Bolivia-Brazil-Guyana drug smuggling network. The paper obtained a Confidential report from the Brazil Federal Police that stated in 1978, Brazilian police discovered the largest cocaine shipment ever seized in Brazil. The shipment was from Bolivia and two traffickers arrested claimed that 10 kilograms of the cocaine were destined for "Reverend" Jim Jones in Guyana. Brazilian police said the shipment was the result of a "contact" signed between Jones and the cocaine traffickers. The head of the Sao Paulo Police Headquarters for Combating Drugs, Arthur Carbone Filho, said he "had conclusive documentation to the effect that the cocaine traffic between Bolivia and Guyana had been going on frequently for some time."

Sao Paulo Federal Police Chief Francisco Carlos Gariato said a Bolivian he called "X" had confessed to smuggling cocaine to Guyana. The Guyanese police confirmed to the Brazilians that "X" had been arrested in 1973 for transporting cocaine into Guyana and was released after serving a prison sentence. Brazilian police later discovered that "X" was a follower of and ea recruiter for Jones. One of "X's" drug fences was later arrested and jailed in Connecticut for trafficking in cocaine sent to Guyana. Gariato said, "In my opinion, most of the followers of the People's Temple were addicts or former addicts of cocaine and other drugs. In Jonestown, the "Reverend" guaranteed them an abundant supply of drugs, far from the vigilance of the authorities.

Carbone said, "The purpose of James Jones' arrival in Brazil in 1969, when he resided in Belo Horizonte, was probably to establish the connections for supplies of Bolivian cocaine to the People's Temple. "

Carbone then had what the newspaper called "shocking" information. He said, "There is in Brazil a secret religious sect of North American origin, similar to the People's Temple. This sect holds frequent meetings at which those initiated are 'cleansed.' The trafficking and consumption of drugs are concealed behind a mystical background that promises love, peace, and brotherhood. At their meetings, the initiated members are required to drink a tea made of 'ausca,' a herb from the Amazon Region which causes hallucinogenic reactions similar to those from LSD. The Brazilian and United States police have already discovered the first clues to that sect."

Carbone said the police would release the results of their investigation but that never occurred. However, one person who has been a constant presence in Brazil is Sun Myung Moon, who, in 1998, bought 200,000 acres of land in southwest Brazil and called the tract his New Hope Ranch. Moon's plans to build a city and airport on the land never materialized and his organization has been the subject of police raids in Brazil. Perhaps, the Brazilian police have some old files on Moon.

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[Back to top](#)

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)